application of SC was received and he was sent abroad in the year 1997, for Long Term Training Course.

Telecast of Doordarshan Programmes in Dharni-Chirval-Dharna Area of Amravati

†2397. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints about poor quality of telecast of Doordarshan programmes in Dharni-Chirval-Dharna area of Amravati;

(b) if so, the details thereof, together with the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to set up Doordarshan and Akashavani Kendra in Amravati During the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Doordarshan programmes are available through satellite mode all over the country including Amravati district. Amravati district presently has 6 transmitters but none of these cover Dharni, Chirawal and Dharna portion of the district. There is presently no approved scheme to cover this part of the district terrestrially. Further expansion of Doordarshan coverage in the area is dependant on availability of resources and inter-se-priorities.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Whereas a local Radio Station with 10 KW FM Transmitter is proposed to be set up in Amravati during the Ninth Plan, a Low Power TV Transmitter at Daryapur in

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Amravati district is already under implementation and is scheduled to be commissioned shortly.

Policy Decision on DTH Services

2398. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Ministerial Committee to devise a policy decision on DTH Services in India;

(b) if so, the broad terms and conditions of the Committee; and

(c) whether the Committee has since finalised its report and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFARS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted comprising of Ministers of Home Affairs, Finance, Communications, Defence, Information and Broadcasting, Information Technology and Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries to consider issues connected with Direct to Home (DTH) broadcasting and to review the uplinking policy.

(c) The GOM has made recommendations with regard to uplinking policy and recommended that private agencies with permissible level of foreign equity as in case of telecommunications sector companies may be permitted to set up uplinking hubs (teleports) which can be hired out to duly approved broadcasters to uplink their channels from India, all Television channels irrespective of their ownership or management control may be permitted to uplink from India provided they undertake to comply with the broadcasting codes and Indian news agencies accredited by the Press Information Bureau may be permitted to uplink from India. The recommendations have been approved by the Cabinet on 25.7.2000.

The GOM is yet to finalise its recommendations on DTH.